1 GEO 06 – Teacher:

2 Population Growth

1 Subject Area

Geography

2 Suggested Level

Years 9–10

3 Overview

This classroom activity examines the components of population change, namely natural increase, net interstate migration and net overseas migration for Australia and the states and territories. It uses the publication Australian Demographic Statistics, (cat. no. 3101.0). The change of population for the period 2007 -2008 is examined, graphed and mapped. The opportunity exists to discuss variations in growth rates and the consequences of rapid change for a community or region.

4 Requirements

- Spread sheet software program or graph paper
- Attachment, Map of Australian states and territories (see website)

5 How Many People Live in Australia?

Go to the home page of the ABS website(www.abs.gov.au) and select the Population Clock As a class complete the table below:

Size of Australia's population at beginning of lesson
One birth every
One death every
A net gain of one international migration every
An overall total population increase of one person.
Size of Australia's population at end of lesson

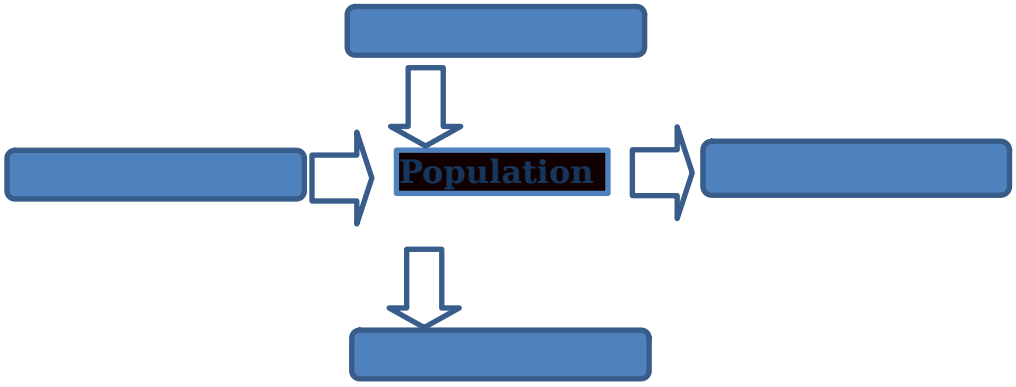
5.1 Growth of Population

The official population count is the Estimated Resident Population recorded in Australian Demographic Statistics (cat. no. 3101.0). It is updated every three months. This count is used by federal and state government, to among other

things, allocate funding. All levels of government are interested in the changing trends in population when developing policy.

1. Use the diagram below to illustrate the way in which the population of a state or region may change. Ask students to place the following words in the correct place on the diagram:

Immigration **Births** **Deaths** **Emigration**



2. Discuss the concept of population growth and ask students to explain the meaning of the following terms.

- Natural increase of population
- Net Interstate migration
- Net Overseas Migration
- Growth Rate

5.2 Representing the Growth of Population

1. Using the data in Table 1 ask students to create column graphs that compare the growth rates (natural increase, net overseas migration, net interstate migration and total population growth) of Australia's states and territories.

TABLE 1. POPULATION CHANGE: COMPONENTS OF TOTAL POPULATION GROWTH, 31ST DEC. 2009 - 31ST DEC. 2010

Rate	NSW %	Vic. %	Qld %	SA %	WA %	Tas. %	NT %	ACT %	Aust. (a) %
Natural Increase	0.62	0.60	0.79	0.42	0.80	0.38	1.19	0.95	0.66
Net Overseas Migration	0.71	0.87	0.71	0.72	1.09	0.25	0.30	0.55	0.77

Net Interstate Migration	-0.16	0.05	0.16	-0.19	0.17	0.11	-0.74	0.42	
Total Population Growth	**1.18**	**1.52**	**1.66**	**0.95**	**2.06**	**0.73**	**0.75**	**1.92**	**1.43**

(a) Includes Other Territories

Source: Australian Demographic Statistics (cat. no 3101.0)

2. Ask students to study their graphs and complete the activities below:

   2.1 List the states and territories where the rate of natural increase is above that of Australia.

   2.2 Discuss possible reasons for the higher rate of natural increase in these states.

   2.3 Identify the states and territories that have a net loss of interstate migrants.

   2.4 Explain why these states may be experiencing a net loss of interstate migrants.

   2.5 Identify the states and territories where the growth rates of overseas migration is well below the national average.

   2.6 Suggest reasons for the lower rate in these states.

3. Using a map of Australian States and Territories, (see attachment) ask students to create a choropleth map for the Total Population Growth of Australian States and Territories using the information in Table 1. Students may choose their own categories or use the values suggested.

   < 1.00% pa

   1.00 to 1.50% pa

   1.50 to 2.00%pa

   > 2.0%pa

5.3 Explaining the Growth of Population

1. After studying the map and the table, ask students to complete a written response to the statement below:

   'Social, historical, environmental, economic and political factors influence the growth of population in Australia's states and territories. Identify and justify the dominant factors.'

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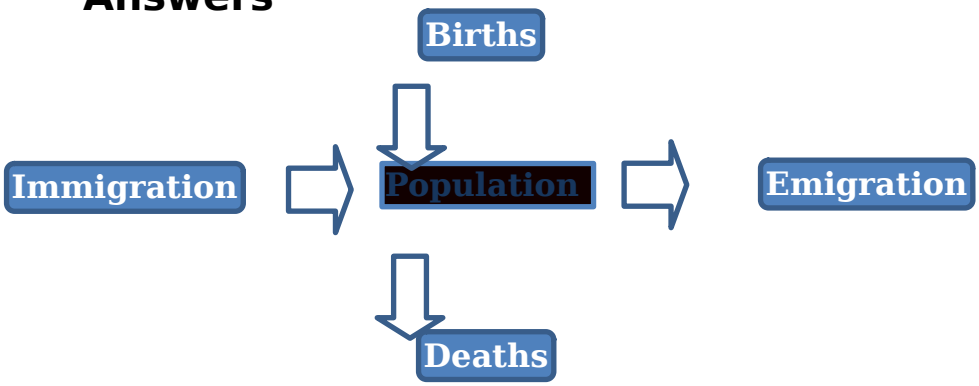
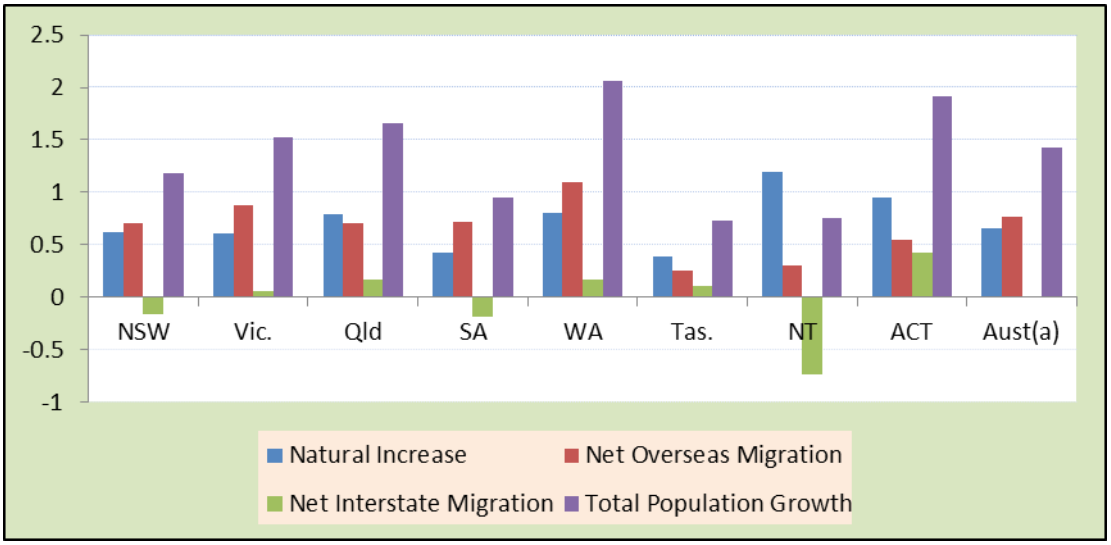
2. High rates of population growth create problems for regions and communities. In small groups brainstorm the nature of problems associated with high growth rates. Share the group responses with the class.

6 Answers



COMPONENTS OF POPULATION GROWTH, AUSTRALIA'S STATES AND TERRITORIES, 2010.



7 Glossary

Choropleth map
Map that uses gradations in a colour to show variations over the area of the map.

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Estimated Resident Population (ERP):
Is the count of all people regardless of citizenship and nationality, who usually live in Australia, with the exception of foreign diplomats and their families. It is the official measure of the Australian population.

Natural increase
Of a population is the number of deaths subtracted from the number of births.

Net interstate migration
Is the number of interstate arrivals minus the interstate departures

Net overseas migration (NOM)
Is the difference between permanent and long-term arrivals, and permanent and long-term departures.

8 References

(Note: Links to ABS publications are to the most recent release. Previous releases can be accessed by selecting the 'Past & Future Releases' tab.)

Australian Demographic Statistics (cat. no. 3101.0)
<www.abs.gov.au/ausstats/abs@.nsf/mf/3101.0>

9 Feedback

To provide any feedback regarding this activity, please contact ABS Education Services on 1800 623 273 or email education@abs.gov.au.